

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 EB-07 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

/043 W

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R 251530Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6727

INFO SECTREASURY WASHDC

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFIN EG

SUBJECT: TAXATION TREATY

1. MINFIN ABU ISMAIL TELEPHONED DCM SEPTEMBER 25 TO INFORM HIM THAT GOE WAS NOW PREPARED TO SIGN TREATY ON DOUBLE TAXATION. ABU ISMAIL SAID THAT PROPOSAL FROM TREASURY HAD BEEN RECEIVED VIA MFA INVITING EGYPTIAN DEL TO COME TO WASHINGTON TO SIGN TAXATION TREATY PRIOR TO MEETING OF JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL SCHEDULED FOR CAIRO OCTOBER 12-14. (EMBASSY CAN ONLY PRESUME THAT PROPOSAL WAS MADE BY TREASURY DIRECTLY TO EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR GHORBAL WHO FORWARDED IT TO MFA, SINCE WE HAVE HAD NO CONFIRMATION OF IT HERE.)
2. ABU ISMAIL SAID FINMINISTRY FOUND LATEST DRAFT FORWARDED BY EMBASSY (DEPT A-5357) ACCEPTABLE AND SAID HE HAD INTRODUCED IT TO APPROPRIATE CABINET COMMITTEE WHICH HAD APPROVED SIGNING.
3. ABU ISMAIL NOTED THAT THERE WERE STILL A FEW MINOR POINTS WHICH NEEDED TO BE CLARIFIED BUT FELT THIS COULD BE DONE BY GOE DEL AT MEETING IN WASHINGTON PRIOR TO SIGNATURE. HE SAID HE WAS THEREFORE PREPARED LEAD A DEL TO WASHINGTON IN

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EARLY OCT (SPECIFIC DATES SHOULD BE PROPOSED BY

TREASURY).

4. DCM SUBSEQUENTLY SPOKE TO FINMIN UNDERSEC HABIB WHO CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF TREATY TO HIS MINISTER. HE INDICATED THE GOE DEL WOULD BE COMPOSED OF SIX OR SEVEN PERSONS LED BY MINISTER AND INCLUDING HIMSELF, BAROUDI AND THREE OR FOUR MEMBERS TAX DEPARTMENT PLUS POSSIBLY A LEGAL ADVISOR. WHEN DCM INQUIRED RE POINTS STILL TO BE CLARIFIED, HABIB SAID THESE WOULD BE MINOR AND COULD BE WORKED OUT IN MEETING WITH PATRICK AND OTHERS IN WASHINGTON. DCM SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR TREASURY TO HAVE INDICATION OF POINTS EGYPTIANS WISHED TO RAISE AND HABIB PROMISED TO PROVIDE HIM WITH LETTER INDICATING WHICH THESE WERE.

5. COMMENT: WE CAN APPRECIATE VALUE OF HAVING TAX TREATY SIGNED BEFORE JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL MEETING. HOWEVER, WE SHOULD CONSIDER--GIVEN LIMITED THINGS WE ARE LIKELY TO HAVE TO ANNOUNCE DURING UPCOMING SADAT VISIT--WHETHER SIGNING CEREMONY SHOULD PERHAPS BE DEFERRED UNTIL SADAT IS IN WASHINGTON. IF DESIRED, ANNOUNCEMENT OF FORTHCOMING SIGNING OF TREATY DURING SADAT VISIT COULD BE MADE AT JBC MEETING WHERE THIS WOULD HAVE APPROPRIATE IMPACT. MINFINANCE TEAM COULD ALSO GO TO US EARLY OCT TO RESOLVE OUTSTANDING POINTS. PLEASE ADVISE.
EILTS

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